UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/966
S/1999/578
19 May 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 20, 105 and 110
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES: QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 19 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a press release issued today, 19 May 1999, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea on yet another violation of the human rights of 10,000 Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin by the Ethiopian Government. My Government believes that the international community has the moral responsibility to help these innocent victims who are held hostage by the Addis Ababa regime.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 105 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press release issued on 19 May 1999 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea has received conclusive evidence that the Addis Ababa regime has deprived about 10,000 Eritreans of their right to leave Ethiopia even though it has confiscated their property, frozen any bank accounts they may have had and otherwise deprived them of their right to a livelihood. This gross violation of the human rights of these Eritreans is yet one more example in a series of human rights crimes that have hitherto been committed by the Ethiopian regime against Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns this criminal and barbaric act by the Addis Ababa regime and demands the unconditional and immediate departure of these Eritreans to any place they may wish to go.